

Letters to Editor

Editor Torrance Herald:

Yesterday I received the enclosed article from Mr. Glenn Willaman, secretary of the California Real Estate Association in his weekly letter. I thought it so good that I would pass it on to you as many of your readers might enjoy it. We are all so busy nowadays that sometimes we neglect to stop and think where we are heading.

Sincerely yours,

B. C. BUXTON
WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN—Shades of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln conversing on the porch of Mt. Vernon, overlooking the Potomac.

Washington: "Sit over here Abraham, in the arm chair where you can get a better view." Lincoln: "George, I am worried." Washington: "What's the matter?"

Lincoln: "Well, you know, last month the folks commemorated our birthdays, made a lot of speeches, draped our pictures with bunting and sang our National Anthem but, as I look down the Potomac and think of this vast country with its nearly 140 millions of people, I have a distinct feeling of uneasiness despite all the speeches, songs and celebrations. It seems to me that our people have gone soft since you and I lived on earth. You know, when your brother built this house and the nearby city of Alexandria came into being, people really worked and were independent, they didn't ask the government to spend the tax money collected from other people to build Mt. Vernon or the homes and business blocks in Alexandria. Nope, they just went ahead and built on their own initiative and did a fine job too. Why, they never even asked any planners to come and lay out the work or tell them how or what kind of houses and buildings to construct."

"And look at Alexandria and Mt. Vernon today. The buildings are still in use, sound as a dollar and a testimonial to the ruggedness and skill of those substantial citizens. And another thing, you know back in Kentucky and Illinois, my people and their neighbors didn't ask any government to help when they built their cabins in the wilderness. They just got out their axes and saws and went to work and today look at the prosperous communities and cities that followed the results of their efforts."

"I don't know, George, what the answer is, but when I look around this nation, that you fought to establish and I strove to preserve, and find people asking the government to build their homes and feed and clothe and doctor their families, I wonder if the old American spirit has become a thing of the past?"

Washington: "Abraham, you have voiced what I long disturbed me. I had hoped in my 45 years of public service to lay a foundation of independence of thought and action, but now I see our people submitting to regimentation, planning by a lot of theorists and depending on the federal government; it makes me wonder whether our hard work and sacrifices were worth while. You know we advocated freedom of opportunity but what do we find on our return? Restrictions, edicts, orders, directives, forms and more forms to fill out if they want to sell a bolt of dress goods, build a house, or raise a crop. Why they even tell people what kind of bread they shall eat, what kind and how much of corn, wheat and oats they shall plant, and what they can charge for everything they sell. Abraham, this would be funny if it were not so tragic—a short while ago they made farmers plow under every third row of corn, and kill off and burn millions of little pigs. Figure that one if you can. You know I have a great wish. I hardly dare hope, but I do wish, that when our birthdays roll around next year we will find a return of the old spirit that made our people great for 150 years. I would like to see the fetters stricken off of the business and lives of our people, an abundance of production, and a return to our old philosophy of hard work, initiative and independence."

Lincoln: "George, I'm with you all the way in this wish. I hope that when the politicians mouth resounding phrases in honor that they will realize, not talk; in work, not idleness, in self-reliance, not dependency. I also wish that our men in government would look at the needs and good of the nation rather than the ballot box; that they would work for the spirit of true Americanism which guided us, rather than the votes they hope to garner at the next election."

Washington: "Abraham, we must keep our eye on things and report to the people from time to time. In the meantime all we can do is wish, hope, and pray. Let's walk down to the river."

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Tomorrow evening will mark a regular social night for the local Townsend Club members with everyone urged to attend, according to Mrs. Ethelyn Vorhis, secretary. A large turnout was reported for last week's "pot-luck" dinner. Friday's meeting will be held in the Men's Bible Class building.

Washington: "What's the matter?"

Many Veterans Throng War Assets Office As Priorities Are Raised

Hundreds of veterans, attracted by news of the law raising their priority status on surplus war goods, each day throng War Assets Administration headquarters.

A large proportion of the visitors sought the items which will be set aside exclusively for veterans, and WAA officials observed soberly that no corresponding increase in the scanty supply of such goods as typewriters and passenger cars is in sight to meet this skyrocket-

ing demand. The new O'Mahoney-Manasse amendment provides that certain types of surplus be set aside for veterans only, for either business or personal use, but not for resale. It also raises veterans' priorities on all other goods to a rank second only to that of Federal agencies for the purpose of helping the ex-servicemen establish their own small enterprises.

The priority certificates already issued to nearly 50,000

veterans in Southern California and Arizona remain valid, according to Serge F. Ballif Jr., WAA regional director, who said that:

(1) Veterans may use their certificates—old style or new—to buy items on the special "set aside" list; but since all such items are critically scarce, applicants generally will be limited in buying for personal use to a single unit of each category.

(2) Priorities for goods not on the set aside list will be

ACCIDENTS GAIN

In January and February, a total of 5450 persons were killed in traffic accidents, according to the National Safety Council. This is more than 45 percent above the number killed in the same months of 1945.

on the "set aside" list will be accepted, even though the requests already on hand may exceed many times the present known supply. Veterans are being warned, however, that there are virtually no passenger cars and typewriters in surplus, very few jeeps, and a gradually increasing supply of trucks.

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